

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 /058 W

-----220253Z 028872 /66

R 211915Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3956

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY QUITO

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 2279

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SHUM AR UY CI BR MASS

SUBJECT: AIR FORCE CINC ON LATIN AMERICAN UNITY AND US POLICY
DIFFERENCES

REF: MONTEVIDEO 1118 (NOTAL)

1. CHILEAN AIR FORCE CINC/JUNTA MEMBER GENERAL GUSTAVO
LEIGH ANSWERED QUESTIONS WITH HIS USUAL OUTSPOKENNESS ON
HIS MARCH 18 RETURN FROM THE MONTEVIDEO MEETING OF AIR
FORCE CHIEFS ON THE AMERICAS. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION
ABOUT THE REFJECTION OF US MILITARY AID BY A HALF DOZEN
LA COUNTRIES, LEIGH REPORTEDLY SAID THAT "CURRENT US
FOREIGN POLICY CAN ACHIEVE THAT WHICH BOLIVAR ONLY
DREAMED OF: THE UNION OF THE LATIN AMERICANS." AND
SPEAKING ABOUT THE THOUGHTS OF LA MILITARY LEADERS ON
US FOREIGN POLICY, LEIGH SAID "THERE IS A LATIN AMERICAN
STIRRING, ESPECIALLY ON THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION
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AND THE SELF-DETERMINATION OF PEOPLES." NEVERTHELESS,
THERE WERE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CHILEAN ARMED
FORCES AND SENIOR US MILITARY LEADERS: "THEY ARE WELL
DISPOSED TOWARD US. THEY RESPECT US FOR OUR PROFESSIONALISM
AND BECAUSE WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN UP TO DATE IN OUR PROGRESS
AS AN INSTITUTION." REPORTEDLY LEIGH THEN ADDED: "THE
POLICY OF THE PENTAGON IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE US

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AND DIFFERENT ALSO FROM THE POLICY OF THE US CONGRESS." LEIGH SAID THAT THE AIR FORCE LEADERS HAD NOT TALKED ABOUT POLITICS DURING THE MONTEVIDEO MEETING, BUT THAT THEY HAD INFORMALLY DISCUSSED INTERNATIONAL MATTERS.

2. COMMENT: THERE IS OBVIOUSLY SOME PUBLIC POSTURING IN LEIGH'S WORDS, BUT WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THEY REFLECT HIS BASIC THOUGHTS. LEIGH IS THE MOST SOPHISTICATED AND BEST INFORMED OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CHILEAN JUNTA. HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE US, AND BECAUSE OF THE ONGOING F-5 AND A-37 PROGRAMS HE HAS MORE REASON TO RECOMMEND CONTINUING COOPERATION WITH THE USG THAN DO OTHER JUNTA MEMBERS. LEIGH HAS SPOKEN PRIVATELY ABOUT DIFFERENT APPROACHES TOWARD CHILEAN POLICY AMONG OFFICIAL AMERICANS, AND WE ASSUME THAT OTHER SENIOR CHILEAN LEADERS SHARE HIS OPINION. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME, HOWEVER, THAT WE RECALL A PUBLIC STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, POLICIES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, INTERVENTION, POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANTIA02279
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770097-0124
Format: TEL
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770339/aaaabhit.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 46a7d4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MONTEVIDEO 1118
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3045543
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIR FORCE CINC ON LATIN AMERICAN UNITY AND US POLICY DIFFERENCES
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, MASS, AR, UY, CI, BR, XM, US, (LEIGH, GUSTAVO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/46a7d4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009